

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

DPW-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 ABF-01 DRC-01 /150 W
----- 041335

O R 190809Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0126

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: PRG EN TUAN'S COMMENTS TO AMB SADRI

USDEL JEC PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN

REF: SAIGON 20990

1. ESSENCE OF COMMENTS MADE BY PRG GEN TUAN TO IRDEL AMB
SADRI ON DECEMBER 17 WAS ONE OF SEVERAL TOPICS TOUCHED ON BY
SADRI IN WIDE-RANGING DISCOURSE WITH EMBOFF ON DECEMBER 18.

2. IN SADRI'S OPINION THE TRUE PURPOSE OF TUAN'S CALL WAS TO DIS-
CUSS DECEMBER 15 HELICOPTER INCIDENT; HOWEVER, TUAN OPENED CON-
VERSATION BY REFERRING TO RECENT PRG LETTER TO ICCS (SAIGON 20986)
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REQUESTING THAT ICCS PULL OUT OF ALL REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL

SITES. TUAN STATED THAT PRG AGREED WITH ICCS MAKING INVESTIGATION FROM SAIGON BECAUSE PRG IS IN SAIGON BUT COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY INVESTIGATION BEING INITIATED FROM OTHER LOCATIONS. SADRI EXPLAINED THAT LETTER HAD BEEN IMMEDIATELY PLACED ON AGENDA PRIOR TO DECEMBER 14 PLENARY AND PLENARY HAD REFERRED IT TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

3. USING ABOVE AS AN OPENING SADRI BROUGHT UP DECEMBER 15 HELICOPTER INCIDENT SUGGESTING THAT PRG SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM OVER INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT BECAUSE IT COULD BE PERFORMED FROM SAIGON. TUAN DISAGREED STATING THAT THERE WAS QTE NO NEED UNQTE FOR AN INVESTIGATION BECAUSE THE PRG DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT.

4. SADRI MADE POINT THAT HE WOULD INVESTIGATE ANY INCIDENT BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION SINCE THIS WAS IN THIS OPINION THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ICCS. TUAN REPEATED OLD LINE THAT RVN HAD IN THE PAST USED JMC HELICOPTERS FOR AGGRESSIVE ACTS, THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT APPROVE OF JCRC FLIGHTS. SADRI SIMPLYING THAT WITHOUT PRG APPROVAL JCRC ACTIVITIES WERE AT JCRC OWN RISK AND PRG WOULD ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES. SADRI ASKED TUAN IF HE HAD RECEIVED DECEMBER 6 LETTER NOTIFYING HIM OF THIS FLIGHT AND ITS OBJECTIVES. TUAN CONCEDED THAT LETTER HAD BEEN RECEIVED BUT NOT ANSWERED SINCE PRG POSITION WAS ALREADY QUITE WELL KNOWN. SADRI CHIDED TUAN ON PRG FAILURE TO ANSWER THE LETTER NOTING THAT PRG POSITION WOULD BE MUCH STRONGER IF IT WAS IN WRITING. SADRI NOTED THAT HE WAS SAYING THIS OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE PRG BUT DECRIED PRG LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR HIS SINCERE EFFORTS TO ACT AS AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER. HE HAD ASKED THE PRG FOR TWO FAVORS YET UNGRANTED. TUAN APPEARED EMBARRASSED; HE HAD FORGOTTEN.

5. ON THE FIRST FAVOR RE HOMER ELM, PA&E EMPLOYEE, TUAN NOTED THAT QTE6HIS GUERRILLAS UNQTE IF AFTER INVESTIGATING THE BACKGROUND OF CAPTURED CIVILIANS FOUND THEM INNOCENT OF ANY WRONG DOING ALWAYS SET THEM FREE.

6. ON SECOND FAVOR RE PRG CONTRIBUTION TO ICCS BUDGET, TUAN PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY WITH HIS SUPERIORS. SADRI CHIDED HIM OVER FACT THAT US AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAD PAID THEIR SHARE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF A BUDGET LEVEL ACCEPTABLE TO EACH OF THEM. HOWEVER DRV AND PRG HAD FAILED TO PAY THEIR SHARE OF \$18 MILLION PER YEAR, A FIGURE THEY HAD PUBLICLY ACCEPTED.

7. COMMENT: IRDEL MAJOR GENERAL SODEIFI TOLD COL. TOMBAUGH THAT HUNGARIAN AND POLISH OFFICERS HAVE INDICATED TO SODEIFI THAT PRG IS HIGHLY EMBARRASSED BY HELICOPTER INCIDENT.

8. PRIOR TO SADRI-TUAN MEETING HEADS OF HUNGDEL AND POLDEL HAD CONCURRED WITH SADRI'S PROPOSAL AS ICCS CHAIRMAN TO PUSH TUAN FOR IMMEDIATE CONTRIBUTION AT \$18 MILLION PER YEAR BUDGET LEVEL, HOWEVER, THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.
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